

COLLIER, WILSON CRAWFORD

0001

COLLIER, WILSON CRAWFORD, born in Ohio about 1826; listed, Territorial Census, April, 1864, 3d District (Yavapai County) age 37, single, resident in Arizona, 3 months, occupation - Cabinet maker, property valued at \$1,000; the Journal of the Walker Mining District shows that on May 3, he located 200 feet on the Henry Clay lode which he sold for \$50, to William R. Basham on October 24, 1864; appointed by Solomon Shoup and Jacob Lynn on December 31, 1864, as:

"our true and lawful attorney with full power to locate and record mining, auxiliary and ranching claims in any part of the Territory of Arizona."

The following references to him were printed in the Prescott Arizona Miner:

July 6, 1866 - - Dunn & Collier, Cabinet Makers, Montezuma St., between Goodwin and Carleton. On hand a Superior article of Chairs, Fall Leaf Tables, Bed Steads, Wash Stands. And will make any article of Furniture to order on the shortest notice. Particular attention is called to persons wishing to build, that by furnishing plans and specifications, from twenty-five to fifty per cent can be saved by submitting the same to the undersigned.

Amassa G. Dunn & W. C. Collier ADV.

October 3, 1868 - - W. C. Collier arrived here from Walnut Grove Thursday evening via the Chase mine. His object in coming by the Chase was to look at a route for a wagon road and we are told that he is of the opinion that a good wagon road can be made over the route traveled by him.

January 23, 1869 - - W. C. Collier, an old citizen of Prescott, but who has been ranching at Walnut Grove for some time past, sold his interest there recently to Charles Washburn and returned to Prescott one day this week.

May 15, 1869 - - Carpenters are in demand at the Sterling. W. C. Collier and Abe Henning, two A No. 1 wood butchers, shut up shop in town Monday last

and, went over to the mine to help the company out, or rather, into their new houses.

November 27, 1869 - - We have been to the "country", where the birds sing, the owl hooteth, the coyote whineth, and Lo, the Aborigine, dwelleth "in clover" For traveling companions we had W. C. Collier and L. W. Worth, the former a genial pioneer prospector, somewhat advanced in years but full of mountain vim and humor.

February 12, 1870 - - Sherman Day, Surveyor-General of California and Arizona, has by the advice of Governor A. P. K. Safford, appointed our fellow townsman, Wilson C. Collier, Deputy Surveyor for Mineral District No. 1., of Arizona which embraces the-country about Prescott. This looks as though a chance will soon be given us to acquire patents to our mines.

April 23, 1870 - - Improvements are still being made in Prescott. Collier & Henning are at work on a frame house, for Mr. John Schafer, on a lot almost in front of the Miner office. The building will be a story and a half in height, and 20 x 40.

August 20, 1870 - - Messrs. Collier, Lewis and two other men, returned home from the Agua Frio district Wednesday afternoon last. They left Prescott some time ago on a prospecting tour and had just reached their proposed camp, near Silver Mountain, when they saw enough bushy-headed savages to deter them from tarrying, and as they were not very well fixed for fighting Indians, they did not stay there long. On their way in they visited the Del Pasco lode, in Bradshaw district. The lode -- Mr. Lewis says -- is the richest one ever seen by him and he has beheld every famous lode in Montana, Idaho, Nevada and California.

November 12, 1870 - - W. C. Collier, of this place, has about concluded to erect a water-wheel, to run arastras, in the Bradshaw district. Should he do so, we will pray for his success, knowing that he well deserves it.

May 6, 1871 - - W. C. Collier, of Bradshaw, talks of going home to Indiana after capital to erect a mill. Hope he'll get it. He has hundreds of

rich feet, and has earned them well, "roughing" it here for ever so many years.

May 27, 1871 - - In 1865 Silver mountain was discovered and the Mammoth lode, with several others, near the southern end of the mountain were located. W. C. Collier was one of the discoverers of the Mammoth and one of the first locaters on the Tiger, and has prospected in that section as much as any other man, and from the day the Tiger was found, has persistently declared that the great Tiger is only an extension of the Mammoth.

August 17, 1872 - - Our old time friend, C. W. Collier (W.C.) is employing his time making chairs, at his shop in front of the Court-house, and better chairs we have never seen.

July 26, 1873 - - Messrs. Collier and Hatz feel confident that, by roasting the ore of the Goodwin lode, they could make a very nice thing for themselves and the country, but they have not the means to build a furnace, etc. Now, we have often begged the citizens of this town and vicinity to help good miners to open and work a lode, and again beg them to do so.

January 15, 1875 - - W. C. Collier has just finished a new front for his house on Cortes Street, and is now engaged in making furniture. Citizens who wish to build new houses or ornament old ones should not fail to visit his place and look at the beautiful designs upon which he has spent so many days.

July 23, 1875 - - Sam Wier informs us that W. C. Collier lately found a human skeleton in an old brush shanty not far from Bradshaw. There were no evidences tending to fix the identity of the person whose remains must have lain there for several years from appearances. The probabilities are that it was a lone prospector killed by Indians.

1876 - - As a walkist, Wilson C. Collier is a success. He walks out to his claims on Turkey Creek, transacts his business, walks back to Prescott and goes quietly to work as if a forty mile walk was a-pleasure to him. A 160-pounder in any other country would consider such pedestrian exercise a hardship.

September 14, 1877 - - W. C. Collier, who very foolishly disobeyed the order of the Court in refusing to serve as a juror, and left town to keep from paying a fine for contempt of Court, was seen a few days since by Gen. Kautz and his party, near the San Francisco Mountains.

June 21, 1878 - - W. C. Collier, who owned some of the very best mining feet on the Tiger, has sold his interest to L. Bashford, for \$1,500 cash.

The Prescott Arizona Enterprise reported his activities as follows:

January 9, 1878 - - We learn that W. C. Collier, who left this place last summer, to escape paying a fine for contempt of court, is sojourning at Fort Wingate, New Mexico.

March 23, 1878 - - Fisher & Co. sold at auction today, on account of the Sheriff, the Collier property on Cortez Street, to satisfy judgment in favor of John Raible, for the amount of the judgment and costs. The property consisted of the buildings now occupied by M. Masterson and Dr. Goodfellow as offices.

May 29, 1878 - - W. C. Collier, who returned a few days since, from the Little Colorado country, tells us that they have good crops in that section, and they already have, ready for operation, one good flouring mill. They also have a large amount of fine horses and cattle. Citizens of that section are now doing their trading with Santa Fe, New Mexico, on account of the bad state of our roads over the Mogollons, but that with a small amount of repair they could come this way, and with the prospect of that improvement in view, requested Mr. Collier to procure them a general list of merchandise prices in Prescott.

The Tucson Arizona Citizen also mentioned him:

February 25, 1871 - - Letter from Prescott. - - Last week the Tiger lode excitement was the foundation of my epistle. The original Tiger is a magnificent success. The lode or veins have been traced for nearly 8 miles. For more than two miles every foot has been taken up. Our townsman, W. Co Collier, has declared his intentions to move all

his household goods to his claim on the Tiger, and camp there till he gets all the silver he wants. Mr. C. has for several years spent all he could make in other ways in prospecting for quartz, and feels sure that he has got his fortune before him now.

December 13, 1873 - - The arrastra of Elliott Brothers of Prescott, worked by steam, has been started on Goodwin ore. W. C. Collier is attending to the amalgamation of the ore.

The following items are from the Prescott Courier:

May 6, 1882 - - W. C. Collier, an old Arizona prospector and a spicy contributor to the press, returned yesterday from a three month's trip to the East. He was accompanied by several gentlemen, who came to the Territory for the purpose of looking at some mining property, both in Maricopa and Yavapai counties. They are genuine miners themselves, and will, no doubt, be well pleased when they visit the mining districts.

November 11, 1882 - - CASTLE CREEK MINING NOTES. We next take our way to the camp of Mr. Collier at the "new town" of Copperopolis. Here we were met by a gallant lot of prospectors, and had a cordial welcome from each. In looking over the tented field it brought back memories of camp life in many parts, and the hardships and hazards of the sanguine prospector.

We were shown the mines of the camp and unhesitatingly say we never saw a finer showing. Copper! Copper! I was getting uneasy, while here, of its future value. The lucky owners we congratulate, and may they bask in the sunshine of prosperity their remaining days is our best wish.

December 2, 1882 - - The people of Phoenix appear to be alive to their material interests. Understanding the great value of the trade of our southern mines, Mr. Collier, formerly of Prescott, is laying off a road from Phoenix to Castle Creek, and the Phoenix people have in view the capture of the trade of all the mining region south of Peck, which they will be likely to win, unless our people own a road that will tap the Bradshaw mountains.

February 2, 1886 - - From the Phoenix Gazette. --
W. C. Collier & Co., who own one half section on
the Arizona canal some seven miles N.E. of Phoenix,
are engaged in setting out a 10 acre orchard of figs
and other fruit.

As a resident of Maricopa County, he was one of the signers
of the "In Memoriam" to John H. Marion on July 28, 1891, giving the
date of his arrival in Arizona as December 23, 1863; a further
newspaper reference to him is from the Prescott Journal-Miner of
January 1, 1896:

In November, 1863, a party composed of twenty-
four men arrived from Santa Fe, New Mexico, and among
them but four are left to stand by each other. They
are Ed Peck and Lew Alters, who today are residents
of Prescott, and Rube Barrington of Maricopa, and Mr.
Collier, who is somewhere east of the Mississippi.

Died at the Maricopa County hospital, July 18, 1906, aged 80;
buried, Citizens cemetery; in announcing his death the Phoenix
Enterprise stated:

Collier came to Arizona many years ago and
was a prominent figure in the early days of this
Territory. A man of large physique, standing over
six feet in height and weighing over 200 pounds,
Collier was considered one of the finest-built
men in the Territory.

For years he had been a prospector, searching
for the precious metals which lay in the mountains
of Arizona. In 1882 he discovered the Copperopolis
mine near Castle Creek Hot Springs. A smelter was
erected on the property, but the mine proved a
failure.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Pioneer and Walker Mining District - Journal, 1864, pp. 41, 133, 136.
The Arizona Miner Prescott, October 11, 1866, 1:2 (advertisement);
July 11, 1868, 3:3; January 9, 2:2, January 23, 2:1, May 15,
3:1 and November 27, 1869, 2:2; February 12, 2:1, April 23,
3:2, August 20, 3:1 and November 12, 1870, 3:3; May 6, 3:1,
May 20, 4:1 and May 27, 1871, 3:2; August 17, 1872, 3:2; May
17, 4:3 and July 2, 1873, 3:1; January 15, and July 23, 1875,
3:2; 1876; September 14, 3:2 and October 19,
1877, 4:1; December 26, 1879, 3:1.
The Arizona Enterprise Prescott, January 9, 2:1, March 23, 2:2,
May 29, 1:4, June 1:1 and October 26, 1878, 3:2;
The Prescott Courier, May 6, 1:5, May 20, 3:5, September 23, 1:2,
October 24, 4:3, November 11, 2:2 and December 2, 1882, 1:3;
June 20, 1884, 4:1, February 2, 1886.
The Journal-Miner Prescott, January 1, 1896, 2:4.
The Phoenix Herald, August 12, 1881, 4:1.
The Arizona Citizen, Tucson, February 25, 1871, 1:3 and December
12, 1873, 1:2.